

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A closed and sealed package, comprising:

- (a) a flexible packaging structure comprising at least two layers and defining a closed and sealed containment structure, said flexible packaging structure comprising (i) a substrate comprising one or more layers of polymeric material and (ii) an anti-transfer layer comprising a film-forming polymeric composition containing about 0.4 percent by weight to about 3 percent by weight of an anti-transfer material; and
- (b) a contained food product in the closed and sealed package, the food product having a water activity in the closed and sealed package of about 0.4 to about 0.95 whereby relative humidity inside the package is less than 100 percent, the food product having a tendency to deposit a visually obscuring component thereof on said flexible packaging structure when in contact with said flexible packaging structure,

the anti-transfer material being effective in the flexible packaging structure, upon contact of the food product with the packaging structure, to attenuate the visually obscuring effect of the visually obscuring component of the food product.

2. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1, said anti-transfer material being dispersed within the composition of said anti-transfer layer.

3. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1 wherein said anti-transfer material is selected from the group consisting of primary alcohols having molecular weight greater than 200, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, ethoxylated alcohols, glycerol monostearate, glycerol monooleate, esters of adipic acid, sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monooleate, ethoxylated sorbitan monolaurate, cocoamine, tallow amine, stearyl amine, ethoxylated stearyl amine, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, montan ester waxes, poly(dimethyl siloxane), and polyethylene having molecular weight less than 4000.

4. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1 wherein said anti-transfer layer is comprised in a seal composite, which seal composite is comprised in a coextruded film also defining at least part of a substrate of said flexible packaging structure, said seal composite comprising about 50 percent by weight to about 70 percent by weight of said coextruded film.

5. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 4, said coextruded film being about 3.5 mils thick to about 8 mils thick.

6. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1, said anti-transfer material comprising a short chain fatty acid or fatty acid derivative having a 12-carbon to 22-carbon chain.

7. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1, said anti-transfer material being dispersed in said anti-transfer layer, and being operative to migrate from within said anti-transfer layer to an interior surface of said packaging structure and to form an effectively protective coating on the interior surface of said packaging structure.

8. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1 wherein said anti-transfer layer comprises ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer as a primary polymer.

9. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1 wherein said anti-transfer layer is comprised in a seal composite, wherein a primary polymer in said anti-transfer layer comprises ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and wherein said seal composite further comprises a second layer comprising a second different ethylene-based polymer composition and wherein said second layer of said seal composite is tougher than said anti-transfer layer.

10. A closed and sealed package as in Claim 1 wherein said anti-transfer material is effective to attenuate the visually obscuring affect of at least one of fat, sugar, and water at water activity of about 0.4 to about 0.95.

11. A multiple-layer anti-transfer film comprising:

- (a) a first substrate layer on a first surface of said film, said first substrate layer comprising an olefin-based polymer as a primary component thereof, said first

substrate layer comprising about 16 weight percent to about 33 weight percent of said anti-transfer film; and

- (b) a polymeric seal composite comprising about 50 weight percent to about 70 weight percent of said anti-transfer film, said seal composite comprising a polymeric, olefin-based anti-transfer layer, said anti-transfer layer having about 0.4 weight percent to about 3 weight percent of an anti-transfer material generally dispersed through a thickness thereof, said anti-transfer layer being effective, upon contact with a food product in a closed and sealed package, and wherein the food product has a tendency to deposit a visually obscuring component thereof on an enclosing polymeric packaging structure, to attenuate the visually obscuring affect of the visually obscuring component,

said anti-transfer film being about 3.5 mils thick to about 8 mils thick.

12. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein said anti-transfer material is selected from the group consisting of primary alcohols having molecular weight greater than 200, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, ethoxylated alcohols, glycerol monostearate, glycerol monooleate, esters of adipic acid, sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monooleate, ethoxylated sorbitan monolaurate, cocoamine, tallow amine, stearyl amine, ethoxylated stearyl amine, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, montan ester waxes, poly(dimethyl siloxane), and polyethylene having molecular weight less than 4000.

13. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein said seal composite comprises about 65 percent by weight to about 70 percent by weight of said coextruded

film, and wherein said first substrate layer comprises about 16 percent by weight to about 20 percent by weight of said coextruded film.

14. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein said seal composite comprises about 50 percent by weight to about 55 percent by weight of said coextruded film, and wherein said first substrate layer comprises about 24 percent by weight to about 28 percent by weight of said coextruded film.

15. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11, said anti-transfer material being dispersed in said anti-transfer layer, and being operative to migrate from within said anti-transfer layer to an interior surface of said anti-transfer film.

16. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein said anti-transfer layer comprises ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer as a primary polymer.

17. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein a primary polymer in said anti-transfer layer comprises ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer and wherein said seal composite further comprises a second layer comprising a second different ethylene-based polymer and wherein said second layer of said seal composite is tougher than said anti-transfer layer.

18. A multiple layer anti-transfer film as in Claim 11 wherein said anti-transfer material is effective to attenuate the visually obscuring affect of at least one of fat, sugar, and water at water activity of about 0.4 to about 0.95.

19. A method of packaging a food product, comprising:

- (a) providing, for packaging, a food product having a water activity in a closed and sealed package, of about 0.4 to about 0.95; and
- (b) packaging the food product in a closed and sealed package comprising a flexible packaging structure, the flexible packaging structure comprising at least two layers and including (i) a substrate comprising one or more layers of polymeric material, and (ii) an anti-transfer layer comprising a film-forming polymeric composition containing about 0.4 percent by weight to about 3 percent by weight of an anti-transfer material within the composition of the anti-transfer layer,

the food product having a tendency to deposit a visually obscuring component thereof on the flexible packaging structure when in contact with the flexible packaging structure, the anti-transfer material being effective in the flexible packaging structure, upon contact with the food product, to attenuate the visually obscuring effect of the visually obscuring component of the food product.

20. A method as in Claim 19, including selecting the anti-transfer material from the group consisting of primary alcohols having molecular weight greater than 200,

polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, ethoxylated alcohols, glycerol monostearate, glycerol monooleate, esters of adipic acid, sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monooleate, ethoxylated sorbitan monolaurate, cocoamine, tallow amine, stearyl amine, ethoxylated stearyl amine, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, montan ester waxes, poly(dimethyl siloxane), and polyethylene having molecular weight less than 4000.

21. A method as in Claim 19, including dispersing anti-transfer material in the anti-transfer layer, and wherein the anti-transfer material is operative to migrate from within the anti-transfer layer to an interior surface of the closed and sealed package.